

Message Text

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PM/SAS - (INFO)

DOD/OP-611 - CAPT. JACKSON

L/NEA:KHUFFMAN

DOD/MRA - MR. BARRINGER

DOD/JCS - CAPT. GRAFFUM

S/S-JPMOFFAT

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O R 282116Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 045838

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT: MIDEASTFOR: REASSURANCES REGARDING FORCE ROLE

REF: (A) MANAMA 0204; (B) STATE 018316

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

1. BEFORE WE CAN CONSIDER WHETHER TO PROCEED IN TRYING
TO FORMULATE KIND OF POLITICAL ASSURANCE SUGGESTED BY
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BAHARNA IN REFTTEL (A), AMBASSADOR SHOULD CALL ON RULER OR

PRIME MINISTER TO REVIEW ALL STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN IN BEING RESPONSIVE TO BAHRAIN'S REQUESTS REGARDING MIDEASTFOR.

2. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE METICULOUSLY RESPONDED TO EACH BAHRAINI REQUEST ON CRIMINAL JURISDICTION, ON RENT, AND IN PROVIDING REASSURANCES RE MIDEASTFOR ROLE. WE HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE IN PLANNING TO GET UNDERWAY A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE THOUGHT THAT WE HAD MET ALL BAHRAINI REQUESTS, AND WERE PLEASED TO BE INFORMED GOB HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT ALL POINTS WERE MET. BUT WE HAVE BEEN DISTURBED THAT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO BE RAISED. MOST RECENT IS REQUEST BY MINSTATE FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS (PARA 1) WHICH SEEM TO REFLECT GOB DOUBT AS TO OUR SINCERITY IN AFFIRMING OUR DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND MOST

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN.

3. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC WRITTEN ASSURANCES WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CARRY TO GOB (PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH IN LETTER CONTAINED IN PARA 4 IN REFTEL B) AND ESPECIALLY THE POLICY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE STATES OF THE REGION, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE HAS ALWAYS OPERATED IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE FUTURE IN THE SPIRIT OF SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY.

4. WHILE WE APPRECIATE GOB'S DESIRE TO HAVE AS MUCH AMMUNITION IN HAND AS POSSIBLE TO FACE CRITICS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE DO BELIEVE WE HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH TO MEET GOB'S POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING MIDEASTFOR ARRANGEMENTS IN BEST POSSIBLE DOMESTIC LIGHT.

5. YOU SHOULD REMIND THE RULER THAT WE HAVE PUT FORWARD VERY POSITIVE PACKAGE, AS REQUESTED BY GOB, REGARDING CIRCUMSTANCES FOR MIDEASTFOR'S REMAINING AT BAHRAIN. WE STAND PREPARED TO CONCLUDE OUR COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH WE PROPOSED TO GOB SOME FOUR WEEKS AGO. WE HAVE NOT THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO ENGAGE RULER RECENTLY IN DETAIL OF OUR DISCUSSIONS

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WITH HIS OFFICIALS, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF HE WOULD NOW REVIEW WHERE WE STAND. WE HOPE HE WILL AGREE IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO CONCLUDE OUR DISCUSSION ON BASIS OF UNDERSTANDINGS ALREADY REACHED. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD WELCOME HIS FRANK VIEWS, AS ALWAYS, IN SPIRIT OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND OUR DESIRE TO INTENSIFY THE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. AS BEFORE, WE CONTINUE WISH EARLY SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATION AND WISH AVOID ANY STEP WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE SUCH CONCLUSION. IF YOU BELIEVE DEMARCHE AS REQUESTED ABOVE COULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR INTEREST, INFORM AT ONCE. KISSINGER

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